



NEWS RELEASE

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Volunteers Needed for 3rd Annual Iowa College Application Campaign

Statewide event is part of a national effort to increase the number of students who apply to college

Des Moines, IA, September 2, 2014 –The Iowa College Student Aid Commission (Iowa College Aid) announced today that it has partnered with the Iowa Association for College Admission Counseling (Iowa ACAC) to sponsor and coordinate the 2014 Iowa College Application Campaign. The goal of the statewide campaign, which will run throughout the month of October, is to increase the number of first-generation and low-income students pursuing a college degree or other higher education credential. Events held at participating high schools focus on helping high school seniors navigate the college admissions process.

The success of these events depends highly on the work of volunteers. During the Iowa College Application Campaign, students at participating high schools are assisted as they complete college applications during the school day with the goal of each high school senior submitting at least one college application. Last year nearly 2,500 students from 33 participating high schools completed college applications during the campaign with help from volunteers. With a goal of having 50 high schools participate in this year's event, even more community volunteers are needed.

For those interested in helping during events at their local schools, Iowa College Aid has an online volunteer sign-up form. Iowa College Aid will coordinate communication between registered volunteers and the area high school event coordinators. Volunteer activities may include:

- Answering student questions regarding college applications, the financial aid process and college preparation.
- Assisting schools with collecting data for Iowa College Aid by ensuring students record their name, high school and the colleges to which they applied.
- Handing out and collecting student transcript requests.
- Helping students register to take the ACT and/or SAT.
- Looking up student information, such as GPA and class rank.

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“We are so grateful to all the volunteers who have helped make previous campaigns a success and hope they will participate again this year,” said Karen Misjak, executive director of Iowa College Aid. “We currently have nearly 40 schools registered and this number continues to grow. We are confident that we will reach our goal of 50 participating high schools this year.”

“We believe that every graduating high school senior should have the opportunity to apply to college,” stated Dan Schofield, president of the Iowa ACAC. “The college application process can be intimidating, especially for first-generation students. The events held at participating schools are instrumental in helping students who might otherwise not apply to college.”

The volunteer registration form, list of registered schools and additional resources for volunteers can be accessed at <https://www.iowacollegeaid.gov/content/iowa-college-application-campaign>. Questions regarding Iowa College Application Campaign should be directed to Amanda Laverman at Amanda.laverman@iowa.gov or 515-725-3464.

The Iowa College Application Campaign is part of the American College Application Campaign (ACAC), a national initiative that is an effort of the American Council on Education.

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About the Iowa College Student Aid Commission

Iowa College Aid provides college access, financial literacy, and outreach services to Iowa’s students and families as they prepare, plan and pay for college. Iowa College Aid also administers state scholarship, grant, work study, and loan forgiveness programs totaling over \$64.0 million annually, conducts research and distributes higher education data, and offers Iowans assistance in obtaining student financial aid and college-related information. Iowa College Aid is the administrator of the Federal GEAR UP Grant, a multi-year state-wide grant which is being used to provide early awareness programming and outreach initiatives to thousands of Iowa’s students and families. More information is available at www.IowaCollegeAid.gov.